# Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Intern



Project Title	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Intern
Summary	Describe the current MHPSS activities of USAID, including gaps in services and capacity, and assist USAID MHPSS specialists in filling those gaps in order to better serve Global Mental Health needs
Country	United States

### **Project Description**

USAID has been investing in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) since 1999 with the goal of improving the mental health and wellbeing of populations in low and middle income countries (LMIC). Programs supported by USAID have included provision of effective interventions, policy promotion, and system strengthening. However, USAID is a large and diverse agency without central coordination of MHPSS activities. The full picture of the agency's activities, capacities, and needs has only recently begun to be mapped and described, through the efforts of the recently formed USAID internal MHPSS Working Group. This information has become critical as USAID increasingly recognizes the importance of MHPSS in LMIC.

This intern will assist USAID MHPSS technical experts to develop a complete description of the agency's MHPSS activities, identify gaps in programming and capacity, and develop information and materials to meet those gaps. The overall result will be more efficient and effective support by USAID of the priority MHPSS needs of LMIC. Activities will include supporting a proposed MHPSS Evidence Summit that will bring together global MHPSS experts to inform USAID policy and practices.

### Description of tasks:

- Track MHPSS activities of USAID, to build a database that provides a picture of the agency's MHPSS activities and thereby informs gaps in USAID activities and capacity.
- Work with USAID MHPSS experts to develop content that addresses these gaps. This includes maintaining an updated database of the evidence supporting various MHPSS interventions, in order to identify which are evidence based and which are not.
- Develop methods to deliver this content through online materials and training.
- Support planning and implementation of the USAID MHPSS Summit.

#### Deliverables, in collaboration with USAID Staff:

- Searchable, regularly updated database on USAID MHPSS programming
- Regularly updated literature review on effective MHPSS interventions in LMIC
- Online training materials
- MHPSS Evidence Summit support

### **Required Skills or Interests**

Skill(s)

Analytical writing

Data analysis

Design thinking

Research

### **Additional Information**

The internship is virtual, but the intern will need to be available to communicate with USAID staff in various locations on the east coast. We are looking for students currently pursuing a Masters or PhD in MHPSS. Preferred qualifications include experience in review of black and grey literature, knowledge of USAID, and some field experience in MHPSS in LMIC and/or emergency contexts.

## **Language Requirements**

None